

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 02273 071440Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6175

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 2273

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, YO

SUBJECT: LJUBICIC CELEBRATES 60TH BIRTHDAY

1. AS CULMINATION OF THREE-DAY CELEBRATION, PRESIDENT TITO PRESENTED DEFENSE SECRETARY LJUBICIC WITH ORDER OF HERO OF SOCIALIST LABOR TO COMMEMORATE LJUBICIC'S 60TH BIRTHDAY AND SERVICES TO STATE. POLITICAL AND MILITARY BRASS PRESENT IN STRENGTH. PRESENTATION CEREMONY FEATURED ON FRONT PAGE IN APRIL 7 PRESS, AND LJUBICIC'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION REPORTED ON INSIDE PAGES OF APRIL 6 EDITIONS.

2. COMMENT: AWARDS MARKING 60TH BIRTHDAYS ARE ROUTINE BUT USUALLY RESERVED FOR PERSON ON THE VERGE OF RETIREMENT OR FOR OLD PARTY HANDS SUFFERING TERMINAL ILLNESS. LJUBICIC FITS INTO NEITHER OF THESE CATEGORIES, INSOFAR AS WE ARE AWARE, AND UNUSUAL BALLYHOO SURROUNDING HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY IS APPARENTLY EXACTLY WHAT IT APPEARS TO BE - HONORS FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICES RENDERED, CONFIRMATION OF CLOSE TIES BETWEEN TITO AND LJUBICIC AND REMINDER OF IMPORTANCE OF MILITARY IN THIS SOCIETY. SWEITZER

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Message Attributes

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